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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HYBRID PEONIES

A. P. SAUNDERS

Clinton
New York

1947

THE STRAINS offered below are arranged roughly by season, beginning with the earliest. In my garden I have peonies for almost two months, beginning about May 5 with the earliest species and hybrids, and ending about July 5 with the last of the Chinese peonies and sometimes with belated blooms on *P. lutea* and its hybrids. Peony shipping season September and October. Transportation prepaid. Prices are indicated in the list. Cash should accompany orders.

Directions for Planting

Failures with peonies are more often due to bad planting than to poor roots. The ground should be prepared in advance and must be **deeply dug**. Two feet is not too much; 18 inches is a minimum, and the hole where the root is to be set should be filled with good friable loam. Some manure at the bottom will be to the good but it must not come into contact with the roots. These must be set **not too deep**.

In the case of the herbaceous peonies, the buds should be placed so that they will be covered with two or three inches of soil.

Tree peonies and the *lutea* hybrids should be planted at the depth at which they have been growing. In grafted plants the union between the understock and the scion should be a couple of inches below the surface of the soil.

At the best however peonies cannot be expected to give much bloom the first year after setting.

Herbaceous Peonies

HYBRIDS

(Roughly in order of blooming season)

Mlokosewitschi x tenuifolia

No. 6941. Fine light pink. Extremely early, being among the first peonies to bloom. \$5.00

Albiflora x macrophylla (tomentosa)

All very early — before the officinalis varieties and about two weeks before the beginning of the Chinese peonies.

Seraphim. Abundant bloomer. White single. Early. \$10.00

Celia. Semi-double with tuft of petals in the centre. Color light flesh with yellow cast. Very early. \$5.00.

Shell Pink. A fine upstanding plant with single flowers of pale pink having a slight cast of yellowish green. Early and desirable. \$5.00

Second Generation Hybrid

Fantasia. (1941) Single flesh pink, crinkled petals of great substance; crimson stigmas. Grand foliage and stature. \$10.00

Albiflora x Wittmanniana

Green Ivory. Flowers light green with some yellow. Distinct and beautiful. A novel color and a very early variety. \$15.00

Elizabeth Cahn. (1942) Very large white goblet; petals somewhat twisted, with underlay of faint green. Delicate, erect, beautiful. \$15.00

Albiflora x decora

Reward. (1941) Upright, very handsome. Flat single bloom; beautiful warm dark maroon. Attractive. \$10.00

Albiflora x decora alba

Camellia. (1942) White with a silky lustre, and a flush of peach pink. Flowers becoming semi-double; may be fully double on well-established plants. Extremely promising. \$10.00

Officinalis x decora alba

Diantha. (1942) Very early. Delightful pale pink flowers. Plants rather dwarf. Flowers medium in size. \$5.00

Albiflora x officinalis

The "Challenger" Group (albiflora x single officinalis)
A strain of extraordinary robustness. The stems are

sometimes nearly an inch thick, and the height of the plant and weight of the foliage proportional.

Defender. Dark mahogany crimson. A very large cup with a mass of silky stamens. Blooms with the later officinalis. Court of Honor Award, Syracuse, 1941. \$10.00

Tantrums. (1942) Very dark crimson single. Fine color. In centre, wild confusion of yellow stamens. \$5.00

Other hybrids between albiflora and forms of officinalis

Marta. Very tall. Flowers loosely double. Brilliant lustrous deepest mahogany red, with touches of white on the edges of the petals. Very effective. Award of Merit, Mass. Hort. Soc.; Court of Honor Award, Syracuse, 1941. \$5.00

Cavatina (formerly Felicity). A light bright cherry pink. Single. Filaments almost white, stigmas crimson. (Hybrid between *P. albiflora* and *officinalis rosea plena*.) \$10.00

Jacqueminot. (1941) Full double crimson bomb, the color of the rose for which it is named. The buds look like huge rosebuds. \$10.00

Postilion. (1941) Enormous flower of deep scarlet crimson. Very brilliant. Semi-double flat cup. \$15.00

Legion of Honor. (1941) Beautiful almost single flat flower of lustreless cherry scarlet. Light green foliage. Unusual and striking. Court of Honor Award, Syracuse, 1941. \$10.00

Rosy Wreath. (1941) Single very pale pink cup. Charming. \$10.00

Bordeaux. (*albiflora* x *Sabini*). (1943) Large claret colored single. Large centre of yellow stamens and petaloids, some edged crimson. Very effective and showy of its color. Flowers held well above foliage. \$10.00

Albiflora x coriacea

The "Lavender" Group

This is a quite new race of hybrids. The color is a beautiful clear lilac, becoming more and more delicate as the flower ages. Very few roots for sale. \$15.00

Beresowskii x Emodi

Late Windflower. These plants are graceful and unusual. The flowers which are only moderate in size, resemble white anemones. They are slightly nodding and are borne on tall stems. The foliage is fern-like and very handsome. \$5.00

Albiflora x Emodi

Innocence. (New, 1947) Very tall, 4½ feet, of graceful stature, each swaying stem carrying four or five single pure white flowers, with greenish-white

centres of transformed stamens. Unique and lovely as a garden plant. \$15.00

Albiflora x Otto Froebel

The plants cover themselves with gaily held flowers in some new and fresh shades of pink, charming for cutting or in the garden.

Hope. Semi-double, an exquisite flower, of an intense pure rose color, absolutely free from mauve, a color rare in herbaceous peonies. Comes sometimes full double. \$5.00

Anniversary. (1941) Fringed flowers. Like a huge pink Shirley poppy. \$10.00

Mercy. Beautiful salmon rose cup. Single. Very attractive. \$10.00

Good Will. (1941) One of the last in bloom of this strain. Almost double; bright rosy pink. \$10.00

Albiflora x lobata

This race of hybrids contains many beautiful pink and red colors we have so long desired in the Chinese peonies —flesh, cherry, salmon, coral and rose pinks to clear bright crimsons, with no hint of purple and never a bad color in all the hundreds that have bloomed. I think this is the most brilliant and effective strain of hybrid peonies yet produced. A gold medal was awarded for a group of these at the American Peony Society Show in Boston, 1947.

Janice. Tall erect variety bearing good-sized flowers of a charming pale salmon pink color. Extra. Very early. \$10.00

Nathalie. Magnificent flat bloom almost full double, brilliant salmon rose. \$10.00

Julia Grant. Semi-double. Very fine clear pink color. First Class Certificate, Mass. Hort. Soc. 1947. \$15.00

Coralie. Orange cherry single. Unusual color. A beauty. \$10.00

Grace Root. Light clear salmon pink cup-shaped single. Much admired at Boston Show, 1940. \$10.00

Sophie. Brightest cherry red; upstanding; large semi-double cup. Fine centre. First Class Certificate, Mass. Hort. Soc. 1947. \$10.00

Cecilia. Light bright cherry. Fringed. Enormous goblet. One of the best. First Class Certificate, Mass. Hort. Soc. 1947. \$10.00

Cardinal's Robe. Brilliant and shining scarlet single. Very striking color. Award of Merit, Mass. Hort. Soc. 1947. \$10.00

Ludovica. (1941) Clear rose pink. Very large semi-double cup. One of the best. Bronze Medal, and First Class Certificate, Mass. Hort. Soc. 1947. \$15.00

- Laura Magnuson.** (1941) Very large cup-shaped light clear bright rose, semi-double. Late for this strain. \$10.00
- Elizabeth Foster.** (1941) Single brightest rose-pink flat cup. Large and brilliant. \$15.00
- Alexander Woollicott.** (1941) Large semi-double flat cup, shining crimson. The very brilliant color never fades. Award of Merit, Mass. Hort. Soc. 1947. \$15.00
- Nadia.** (1941) Wide-spreading cherry pink blossom, with slightly crinkled petals. Late for this strain. \$15.00
- Emblem.** (1941) Single deep lustreless red flowers of finest substance. Very floriferous. \$10.00
- Alert.** (1941) Exceptionally brilliant crimson single. \$10.00
- Red Red Rose.** (1942) Brightest crimson-scarlet bomb. Very handsome. \$15.00
- Skylark.** (1942) Upright goblets of clearest pink, held very high. \$10.00
- Lovely Rose.** (1942) Deep creamy pink semi-double. A lovely and unique quality of color. \$10.00
- Bravura.** (1943) Shining light crimson with white flares on outside of petals. Charmingly crinkled and of fine form. Brilliant and effective. \$10.00.
- Great Lady.** (1943) Single or slightly semi-double very large loftily held widely expanded blooms of China pink. Fine garden plant. \$10.00
- Rose Diamond.** (1943) Tall upraised cup of clear salmon rose. Single. Petals folded in a pointed fashion which gives great style to the flower. Late, for this race. \$10.00
- Rose Garland.** (1943) China pink single cup. On the reverse, conspicuous white flares streaked pink. Rather dwarf. A delightful little plant. \$10.00
- Claudia.** (1944) Very tall erect semi-double goblet, 3½ to 4 feet. Opens bright light cherry, changing to clear pale salmon pink. Very good. \$10.00

Triple Hybrids in which albiflora, officinalis and macrophylla are combined

- Pageant.** (1941) Light pink with an enormous cluster of stamens. Tall and upstanding. Very conspicuous. \$15.00
- Campagna.** Deep white goblet with greenish shadows. Filled with a mass of bright gold anthers. Petals slightly fringed and crinkled. A lovely flower. \$15.00

Varieties of uncertain parentage

- Horizon.** Very large flesh-colored single with enormous centre of golden stamens. Very tall. Outstanding. \$15.00

Patriot. Bright crimson goblet held high. Fine pure color. About 4 ft. Very vigorous plant. \$15.00

PEONY SPECIES

I offer a few species some of which are not easy to obtain true to name.

Emodi. The Himalayan peony. Very tall, with nodding white flowers and extremely handsome foliage. A beautiful species. \$5.00

Mlokoewitschi. The only true yellow herbaceous peony and one of the most beautiful of hardy plants. A very early and abundant bloomer. Although not always certain to succeed, it should at least be tried in every garden. \$10.00

Willmottiae. A very beautiful white-flowered species from Western China; one of the earliest of all peonies; large handsome foliage. Very rare. \$5.00

Tree Peonies

I have a few large plants of tree peonies—plants of five to ten years growth, unnamed but which I can offer by color at from \$10.00 to \$25.00 according to size and quality.

My friend, Mr. William Gratwick, of Linwood, N. Y., has quite a large stock of Japanese tree peonies in a carefully selected group of fine varieties. I have made arrangements with him to help me in filling any orders that come to me which I am unable to fill myself. I am delighted to have his stock to fall back on.

P. LUTEA

Paeonia lutea is the wild yellow tree peony from Southern China. Flower 2 to 3 inches across like an enlarged buttercup, with a lily-like fragrance; foliage fernlike, very handsome. A beautiful and unusual plant. \$5.00

HYBRIDS BETWEEN CHINESE TREE PEONIES and P. LUTEA or P. DELAVAYI

Argosy. (1928) Clear sulphur yellow, single, 6 to 7 inches across, with plum colored dash at base of petals. Garden Achievement Medal, Boston; F.C.C. Mass. Hort. Soc.; Court of Honor Award, Syracuse, 1941. \$15.00

Besides Argosy I have some fifty other named varieties worthy to be put on the market, some of which have already been somewhat distributed. The others I hope to have stock of within a year or two and as soon as possible they will be offered to the public.

